

GROOMBRIDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Show Schedules for 2026



PROGRAMME FOR 2026

Everybody welcome – speaker evenings are free for members, including refreshments. All events take place at the Groombridge Village Hall unless stated otherwise.

Thursday 15th January

7.15pm AGM in the Club Room.

8pm - Hamish Bett, Head Gardener “Scotney Castle and its Garden”

Thursday 19th February

8pm Fiona Parrott, Garden Designer “Spring Splendour – designing with bulbs in pots, borders & grassed areas”

Thursday 12th March

8pm Steve Edney, Co owner of The No Name Nursery “A horticulturalist’s home garden”

Saturday 28th March - The Spring Show- 2.30pm in the Main Hall

Sunday 29th March double discount day for members at Royal Mires Nursery

Thursday 7th May

Coach trip to Riverhill Himalayan Gardens, Sevenoaks including a garden tour

Saturday 9th May - Spring Plant Sale - 9am to 12noon behind the village hall

Wednesday 8th July

Coach trip to Loseley Park House & Gardens, Guildford including a tour

Saturday 12th September

The Autumn Show - 2.30pm in the Main Hall

Saturday 3rd October

Autumn Plant Sale - 9am until 12noon behind the village hall

Thursday 15th October

8pm Sophie Leathart - owner of Black Knight Flowers “Growing flowers for cutting” including a demonstration

Thursday 19th November

7.30pm Christmas themed floral art demonstration by Ellouise Hasler Stott, NAFAS Area Demonstrator “All that sparkles”

PRESIDENT

Mrs Karen Wolffe

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mrs Christine Wells

Mr Michael Truscott

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Peter Taylor

OFFICERS

Chair	Mrs Gwyneth Davies, Leyswood End, Corseley Road, Groombridge, TN3 9PH Tel: 01892 862430
Vice Chair	Mrs Lindsey Symonds, Milestone House, Groombridge Hill Groombridge, TN3 9LY Tel: 07748 760596
Treasurer & Membership	Mr Ian Draper, Leyswood End, Corseley Road, Groombridge, TN3 9PH Tel: 01892 862430
Secretary	Mrs Lisa Innes-Cook, Chapel Cottage, Stonewall Park Road, Langton Green, TN3 OHN

COMMITTEE

Mrs Christiane Brook	Mrs Sue Obbard
Mr Mark Gyngell	Mr David Robson
Mrs Belinda Gray	Mrs Bev Watson
Ms Hannah Mashford	

Hon. Auditor: Mr Rob Hollands

SOCIETY RULES

1. The Society is called 'THE GROOMBRIDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY' and membership is open to anyone.

The objective of the Society is to promote interest in, and to encourage and support gardening and other horticultural practices by arranging talks, outings, shows and offering prizes for competitions, and in any other manner considered appropriate.

2. The affairs of the Society will be managed by a Committee. The Committee will consist of a Chair, a Treasurer, a Secretary and a Vice Chair together with a number of general Committee Members. Five members of the Committee will form a quorum for meetings, to include the Chair and Treasurer (or alternates). The Committee may fill any vacancy that may occur during the year.
3. The Society will also have a President who will support the Committee in their efforts and who can choose to be an ex-officio member at any Committee Meeting. The Committee may also appoint Vice Presidents as appropriate.
4. The Society requires members to pay an annual subscription, the amount of which will be determined by the Committee, with any changes being ratified at an AGM. The subscription period will run from January to December and subscription payments will become due in January each year.
5. The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at such time and place as determined by the Committee, to receive and approve the Annual Report, to pass the Audited Accounts, to elect the Committee for the ensuing year, and to transact any other General

Business. All members of the Society are invited to attend the AGM.

SHOW RULES

1. All shows are open to members and non members of the society. There are no entry fees for any classes.
2. Details of closing times for entries and times of staging are shown on each show schedule. Entries may be given in writing, by email or over the telephone to the Show Secretary.
3. Where relevant, exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor for three months, unless grown from seed in less time. The rule does not apply to flowers used in flower arrangement classes.
4. No-one shall enter more than one exhibit in any one class, except in an Any Other Vegetable or Any Other Fruit class. There will be no limit to the prizes one competitor may win.
5. Members of the same family living in the same household are eligible to exhibit in the same class.
6. **Number of exhibits required in collections and groups are listed in this schedule.**
7. All exhibits should be named as far as possible.
8. **Society vases must be used for all flower exhibits** excluding floral art or where otherwise noted in the Schedule. Exhibitors using the Society's vases will, at the close of the Show, be responsible for emptying the vases and returning to a committee member.
9. Exhibitors must comply with these Rules and any other regulations that the Committee may put in place to assist with the running of a Show. Interference with another exhibitor's materials is not allowed.
10. The decision of the judges shall be final, and they may withhold or modify any prize. The committee may, on the recommendation of the judges, award extra prizes in any class.
11. All cups and trophies remain the property of the Society and must be returned to the Show Secretary at least a week prior to the next show date (or on request).
12. In the event of a complaint or protest, any member or exhibitor may notify the Show Secretary in writing within one hour of the Show being opened to the public. A deposit of £1 will be payable, which will be forfeited at the discretion of the Committee unless the protest is substantiated. The decision of the Committee shall be final.
13. The Society will not hold itself responsible for any loss or damage to the exhibits.
14. All exhibitors accept that their names may be publicised.

15. Additional Rules for the flower arrangement classes are included in this schedule.

RULES FOR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

1. Arrangements may be assembled either at the show or elsewhere but must be the work of the exhibitor only.
2. All arrangements must be of fresh plant material unless otherwise stated in the schedule and cut ends should be in water or water-retaining material. Dried, artificial or artificially coloured material may not be used unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
3. Unless otherwise stated in the schedule, arrangements will stand in alcoves measuring 90cm high x 60cm wide x approx. 60cm deep (3' x 2' x 2'). Where arrangements are to stand on open tabling, dimensions will be given in the schedule for width and depth, and height will be unrestricted.
4. Drapes and accessories may NOT be used unless otherwise stated.
5. The judge's decision will be final at all shows and they may withhold or modify any prize. Additional prizes may be awarded on the judge's recommendation.
6. These rules do not apply to children's flower arrangements. These can be any size and will be staged on open tabling.

HINTS FOR NOVICE / NEW EXHIBITORS

- **Flowers:** Cut in the evening before the Show, or early in the morning. Remove damaged flowers, discoloured or broken leaves. Roses should, if possible, be buds just beginning to open rather than fully opened flowers. Check the container is well filled with water to prevent wilting during the Show.
- **Vegetables:** Select even-sized, unblemished specimens. Roots should be carefully washed but do not brush as this may damage the skin. Beet, carrots, turnips and rhubarb should have leaves or tops removed leaving not more than 7.5cm /3" attached. Rhubarb and tomatoes are classified as vegetables.
- **Fruit:** Should be fresh, uniform and free from blemish. Preserve the natural bloom and keep stalks intact.
- If you are unsure how to display any exhibit, bring to the show complete with leaves, stalks etc and a committee member will be happy to advise. A good way to learn is to study class winners.

- Read the schedule carefully, and allow plenty of time to stage exhibits. It can be very disappointing if a good quality entry is marked “Not According to Schedule” (NAS) so do check the criteria given in the schedule carefully and be sure that your entries comply with specific requirements e.g. size, or number of items.

TABLES FOR COLLECTIONS

Column A shows the number of items required in a collection

Column B shows the maximum points for each exhibit

Both columns are based on RHS standards (* but in some instances a reduced number of items)

VEGETABLES

	A	B		A	B
Aubergines	3	18	Onions (large)	3	20
Beans (Broad / French)	5 pods*	15	Onions (under 8oz/250g)	5	15
Beans, Runner	5 pods*	18	Onions (green salad)	6*	12
Beetroot	4	15	Parsnips	3	20
Broccoli(sprouting/shoots)	12	15	Peas (pods)	9	20
Brussel Sprouts	9 *	15	Peppers (hot / chilli)	6	15
Cabbage (Savoy/ green)	2	15	Peppers (sweet)	3	15
Carrots	3	20	Potatoes	5	20
Cauliflowers	2	20	Pumpkin	1	10
Celery	2	20	Radishes (small salad)	9	12
Courgettes	3	12	Rhubarb (natural)	3	12
Cucumbers	2	18	Shallots	10	18
Garlic	3*	12	Sweet Corn	2*	18
Garlic (elephant / giant)	2*	15	Tomatoes (small)	9*	12
Leeks	2	20	Tomatoes (medium)	5*	18
Lettuces	1*	15	Tomatoes (large)	3	15
Marrows	2	15	Turnips	3	15

FRUIT

	A	B		A	B
Apples, cooking	3*	18	Melons	1	18
Apples, dessert	3*	20	Nuts (dish of)	20	12
Blackberries	10*	12	Pears	3*	20
Currants (dish of)	200g /7oz	12	Plums	5*	16
Figs	5	16	Quinces	3*	12

Gooseberries	10*	12	Raspberries	10*	12
Grapes (bunches)	1	20	Strawberries	10*	16

In 'Any Other Vegetable' classes the number required is shown in column A. More than one exhibit can be shown in these classes. For these particular classes, all exhibits have equal maximum points (rather the points shown in the table above).

THE SPRING SHOW 2026

Saturday 28th March at 2.30pm

Staging - 9am to 12 noon

Judging from 12:15pm to 1:30pm

Open to the public 2.30 pm

Prize giving - 4pm

Entries close 8pm on Thursday 26th March

Show Secretary - Gwyneth Davies. Telephone 01892 862430

Email: groombridgehorticulturalsociet@gmail.com

Assistance available from any Committee Member - please just ask.

SPECIAL AWARDS (and garden vouchers as shown below)

The Herbert R Barr Cup (& £10 GV) awarded for the most points in the Daffodil Classes (Classes 1-15 inclusive)

The Geoff Ridley Cup (& £10 GV) awarded for the best daffodil in show

Daffodil Society Diploma awarded for the best exhibit in Class 1

Floral Art - £10 Gift Voucher and Diploma awarded to the exhibitor with the most aggregate points in the Floral Art classes

The S W Mountain Cup (& £10 GV) awarded for the most points gained in all Senior Classes excluding Daffodil Classes (Classes 16-38 inclusive)

The Skinner Shield awarded for the best exhibit in Class 24 (mixed vase of flowers)

The Children's Classes are divided into two sections:

Section 1 – for children aged 5 years and under – **The Sidney Belcher Cup**

Section 2 – for children aged 6 to 16 years – **The Leckonby Cup (& £5)**

THE SPRING SHOW SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Daffodil Classes

Class	Points	Description
1	9,6,4	3 Vases Narcissi, 3 distinct varieties, 3 stems each vase
2	4,3,2	1 vase; 3 stems, one variety - all yellow
3	4,3,2	1 vase; 3 stems, one variety - all white
4	4,3,2	1 vase; 3 stems, one variety - yellow/red or orange
5	4,3,2	1 vase, 3 stems, one variety – white/yellow
6	4,3,2	1 vase, 3 stems, one variety – white/red or orange or pink
7	4,3,2	1 vase; 3 stems, one variety - double
8	4,3,2	1 vase, 3 stems, one variety – miniature or dwarf
9	4,3,2	1 vase, 5 stems, any variety or varieties
10	3,2,1	1 stem, all yellow
11	3,2,1	1 stem, all white
12	3,2,1	1 stem, white/yellow
13	3,2,1	1 stem, yellow/red or orange or pink
14	3,2,1	1 stem, white/red or orange or pink
15	3,2,1	1 stem - any double

Where a class refers to multiple colours, the first colour refers to the petals (perianth) and second colour or colours refers to the trumpet (corona)

Other flowers, fruit and vegetables

Class	Points	Description
16	3,2,1	Vase of polyanthus or primroses, 5 stems any one variety
17	3,2,1	Vase of muscari, 5 stems any variety or varieties
18	3,2,1	5 Hellebore flowers, any variety or varieties (stands provided)

19	4,3,2	Vase of tulips, 3 stems, same variety
20	3,2,1	1 single tulip in a vase
21	3,2,1	1 camellia, azalea or rhododendron bloom or stem of blooms
22	3,2,1	3 stems of any flowering shrub or shrubs
23	3,2,1	The best bloom/stem of blooms in my garden today

Other flowers, fruit and vegetables, continued

Class	Points	Description
24	3,2,1	A vase of mixed spring flowers and foliage using society vases.
25	3,2,1	Flowering plant or plants in a container (max diameter 30cm/12")
26	3,2,1	Best house plant in a pot (max diameter 12")
27	3,2,1	5 sticks of Rhubarb (not forced)

Floral Art

28	4,3,2	"100 years of Winnie the Pooh" An arrangement of fresh foliage and/or flowers to be staged in an alcove 90x60x60cm / 3'x2'x2'. Drapes / Accessories allowed.
29	3,2,1	'Spring Tea Party' A table centre piece for a tea party with fresh flowers and foliage, to fit in a space 38x38cm / 15"x15" (no height restriction).

Cookery

30	3,2,1	A plate or box of six individual, matching, sweets (any recipe)
31	3,2,1	A Battenberg cake (any recipe) (shop bought marzipan is acceptable)
32	3,2,1	A loaf of bread (any recipe)

Produce & Preserves

33	3,2,1	A jar of marmalade
34	3,2,1	A bottle or jar of salad dressing
35	3,2,1	Six fresh hens' eggs

Handicrafts

36	3,2,1	A handmade cushion - any material or style
37	3,2,1	A photograph depicting "Signs of Spring" (unframed please)

Own Thing

Class	Points	Description
38	6,4,2	An exhibit of 3 different items from 3 different categories (for categories see headings) e.g. any cookery or produce item, any handicraft item and any floral, vegetable or fruit item. (Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables are different categories for the purposes of this class). To be staged in an alcove 60x60x60cm / 2'x2'x2' . Extra points given for presentation (own drapes & accessories allowed)

Children's classes - pre-school – 5 years and under (please state age when entering)

39	3,2,1	A hand decorated stone or pebble (any style / materials)
40	3,2,1	Three slices of a Rocky Road tray bake (any recipe)

Children's classes - under 16 (please state age when entering)

41	3,2,1	A hand decorated stone or pebble (any style / materials)
42	3,2,1	Three slices of a Rocky Road tray bake (any recipe)

In each Children's Class there is a prize of £3 for first, £2 for second and £1 for third

THE AUTUMN SHOW 2026

Saturday 12th September at 2.30pm

Staging – 9am to 12 noon

Judging from 12:15pm to 1:30pm

Open to the public 2.30 am

Prize giving - 4pm

Entries close 8pm on Thursday 10th September

Show Secretary – Gwyneth Davies. Telephone 01892 862430

Email: groombridgehorticulturalsociet@gmail.com

Assistance available from any Committee Member – please just ask.

SPECIAL AWARDS (and garden vouchers as shown below)

The Burrswood Cup awarded for the best exhibit in Class 1

The Wally Fairhurst Cup awarded for the best vegetable exhibit

The Crofts Cup awarded for the best Dahlia exhibit

The Banksian Medal (& £10 GV) awarded to the winner of the highest aggregate total points in Classes 1-37 inclusive

The Midmore Cup (& £10 GV) awarded to the competitor with the highest aggregated points total in Classes 38-48 inclusive

The Jackie Childs Cup awarded to the winner of Class 53

ANNUAL AWARDS

The Autumn Show marks the end of the Society's show year and the following awards will be given for the best performers over the whole year, provided that the winner has won a prize in both shows.

The Gardener of the Year will be awarded with the **Chamberlain Cup (& £15 GV)** for the highest aggregate points total in the **Horticultural Classes** over both shows.

The Jubilee Cup (& £10 GV) awarded to the exhibitor with the highest aggregate points total in the **Floral Art** Classes over both shows.

The Cookery Cup (& £10 GV) awarded to the exhibitor with the highest aggregate points total in the **Cookery** & the **Produce / Preserves** Classes over both shows.

The Junior Competitor of the Year will be awarded with the **Children's Cup (& £5)** for the highest aggregate points total in the **Children's Classes** over both shows.

THE AUTUMN SHOW SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Fruit and Vegetables

Class	Points	Description
1	6,4,2	Collection of vegetables, 3 different kinds, in a 60cm / 2' space (see table on p6 for the number required and points available)
2	3,2,1	5 onions
3	3,2,1	10 shallots
4	3,2,1	5 runner beans
5	3,2,1	5 potatoes, 1 variety
6	3,2,1	2 marrows or squash less than 31cm /12" long
7	3,2,1	3 beetroot
8	3,2,1	5 medium or 3 large tomatoes
9	3,2,1	9 small tomatoes
10	3,2,1	3 carrots
11	3,2,1	Any other vegetable (see table on p6 for number required)
12	3,2,1	3 apples
13	3,2,1	3 pears A collection of mixed fruit to be displayed in your own container
14	3,2,1	
15	3,2,1	5 stems of different herbs staged in a vase
16	3,2,1	An amusing vegetable
17	3,2,1	My longest fresh runner bean

Flowers

18	6,4,2	5 Dahlias, any variety or varieties
19	6,4,2	5 small Dahlias, any variety or varieties less than 10cm/4" diameter
20	4,3,2	3 Dahlias, one variety
21	3,2,1	1 Dahlia bloom, any variety
22	3,2,1	1 single rose
23	3,2,1	1-3 stems of a rose - 1 bud, 1 bloom and 1 blown (one variety)

24	3,2,1	3 stems of roses any variety or varieties
----	-------	---

Flowers continued

Class	Points	Description
25	3,2,1	5 Fuchsia blooms, any variety or varieties (stand provided)
26	3,2,1	1 stem of a gladioli flower grown by entrant from bulbs to be provided by the society at the Spring show (cut flower stem to be displayed in a Society vase) 3 stems of any flowering shrub or shrubs (one or more variety/ies)
27	3,2,1	
28	3,2,1	3 stems of any flowering bulbs (one variety)
29	3,2,1	The best bloom/stem of blooms in my garden today
30	3,2,1	A vase of mixed garden flowers (using society vase)
31	3,2,1	1 hydrangea bloom
32	3,2,1	5 stems of Rudbeckia (any one variety)
33	6,4,2	3 to 5 stems of any flower (one variety) that does not have its own specific class / classes

How does your garden grow?

34	3,2,1	2 tomatoes of one, named variety – to be judged on taste only
35	3,2,1	2 carrots of one, named variety – to be judged on taste only
36	3,2,1	2 green beans (runner or french) of one, named variety - to be judged on taste only
37	3,2,1	A bowl / container of homemade compost

Floral Art

38	4,3,2	‘Hedgerow Heaven’ An arrangement of fresh foliage and/or flowers to be staged in an alcove 90x60x60cm / 3'x2'x2'. Drapes / Accessories allowed.
39	3,2,1	‘Autumn beauty with Dahlias’ An arrangement using only dahlias and autumnal foliage, in any container (provided by the entrant) to fit in a space 30x30cm / 12"x12" (no height restriction).

Cookery

40	3,2,1	A bowl of savoury crisps (any recipe)
41	3,2,1	A fruit tart (any recipe)

42	3,2,1	3 jammy dodger biscuits (any recipe)
----	-------	--------------------------------------

Produce & Preserves

43	3,2,1	A jar of pickle or chutney
----	-------	----------------------------

44	3,2,1	A jar of jam or jelly
----	-------	-----------------------

45	3,2,1	A jar of pickled vegetables
----	-------	-----------------------------

Handicrafts

Class	Points	Description
--------------	---------------	--------------------

46	3,2,1	A hanging Christmas decoration (for tree or free hanging)
----	-------	---

47	3,2,1	An Autumnal painting - any medium (unframed please)
----	-------	---

Own Thing

48	6,4,2	An exhibit of 3 different items from 3 different categories (for categories see headings in bold) e.g. any cookery or produce item, any handicraft item and any floral, vegetable or fruit item. (flowers, fruit and vegetables are different categories for the purposes of this class).
----	-------	---

To be staged in an alcove 60x60x60cm / 2'x2'x2. Points given for presentation (own drapes & accessories allowed)

Children's classes - pre-school – 5 years and under (please state age when entering)

49	3,2,1	A display of Autumnal flowers & foliage in a jam jar
----	-------	--

50	3,2,1	A drawing, painting or collage of your favourite mini beast
----	-------	---

Children's classes - 6- 16 years (please state age when entering)

51	3,2,1	A display of Autumnal flowers & foliage in a jam jar
----	-------	--

52	3,2,1	A drawing, painting or collage of your favourite mini beast
----	-------	---

Children's classes - any age - with the help of an adult

53	3,2,1	' Growing Together ' - an exhibit of 3 different items. Any mix of vegetables, fruit and flowers grown by adult and child together
----	-------	---

In each Children's class there is a prize of £3 for first, £2 for second, £1 for third

